



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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DEQ Reminds Louisiana to Recycle During the Holiday Season

DEQ wants all citizens to remember to recycle this holiday season. Did you know that Louisiana produces more garbage during December than any other month of the year? You can make Christmas a lot easier on you and your family by doing a little home environmental planning.

"Pre-cycle" your Christmas tree.

"Pre-cycling," means taking recycling or reuse into consideration when you buy. How do you do this? Simple. Consider an artificial tree that does not have to be discarded or recycled. If you buy a live tree, plan your decorations to minimize flocking, tinsel, and decorations that will have to be removed before recycling. Check with your local solid waste officials, recycler, or waste company to determine local requirements. Trees that have excessive tensile, spray or flocking or include stands or plastic bags simply add to the garbage collection. Most Louisiana municipal and parish tree collections are held during the first two weeks of January. Trees are collected for use in coastal restoration projects or used in compost projects. For more information, visit the Department of Natural Resources website at <http://www.savelawetlands.org/site/Xmas/xmas3.html> for the Coastal Restoration Division's use of Christmas trees in coastal Louisiana.

Innovate Your Gift-Wrapping

Save and reuse gift bags. Home made and endlessly reusable Christmas theme fabric with Velcro fasteners can substitute for paper wrap. Large or odd size gifts maybe placed in Christmas theme fabric bags with drawstring tops. Used attractive, decorative gift boxes and forego wrapping.

What can you recycle?

Usually a local mailbox or postal shipping store will take your foam peanuts for recycling. Most cardboard is recyclable and there is a demand for old cardboard. Use rechargeable batteries in all those electronic toys, cameras and gadgets. When your rechargeable nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium ion, or small sealed lead battery no longer holds a charge, call the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation at **800-8-battery** or use their web page at <http://www.rbrc.org> for the nearest battery recycling drop off. Unfortunately the high levels of ink and aluminum foils used in wrapping paper are not conducive to recycling.

Most importantly, to make the circle complete you have to buy recycled products. Go to http://www.deq.state.la.us/assistance/recycling/index_home.htm or call -1800-305-6621 for more DEQ Christmas and recycling ideas.